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THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The maximum fares for stage carriages fixed under the Motor Vehicles Act have been enhanced in respect of all stage carriages, in view of the judgment of the High Court in writ petitions Nos. 42, 43, etc., of 1953."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" In view of the fact that the former Chief Minister and former Transport Minister gave an assurance to this House that no surcharge will be levied on passengers, will the present Transport Minister be pleased to cancel this surcharge imposed on the bus-owners as well as the increase in bus fares? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, that assurance was incorporated in the provisions of the Act itself. Unfortunately, the High Court has held that, as far as that portion of the Act is concerned, it is invalid. That is no justification to give any remission to bus-owners as far as this tax is concerned."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" ஹைகோர்ட்டிலே சட்டத்தில் அந்தப் பகுதி செல்லுபடியாகவில்லை என்று மந்திரி அவர்கள் சொன்னார்கள். ஆனால் அந்தமாதிரி ஹைகோர்ட் தீர்ப்புகள் கொடுத்த பிறகுகூட இந்த சபையில் அந்தச் சட்டங்களை நாம் திருத்தி யிருக்கிறோம். ஆனால் பொது ஜனங்களுக்கு நன்மை அளிக்கக்கூடிய இந்தச் சட்டத்தை மட்டும் திருத்துவதற்கு ஏன் இன்னும் சர்க்கார் முன்வரவில்லை என்று கேட்கிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The matter is being examined." 8-10 a.m.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, the surcharge per seat in the bus will come to about Rs. 12 and according to the new increase in the bus fare, it will come to about Rs. 33. May I request the Hon. Minister to state whether it is the intention of this Government to help the bus-owners while at the same time putting passengers to trouble? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, the arithmetic of the hon. Member is evidently wrong."

Decision of the High Court regarding Madras Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers and Goods) Act, 1952.

* 940 *Q.*—SRI K. T. SREEDHARAN (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state what action has been taken by the Government with reference to the decision of the Madras High Court in writ petition No. 262 of 1953, bearing on the Madras Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers and Goods) Act, 1952?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" In view of the decision of the High Court, the Government have raised the maximum fares already prescribed by them under section 43 (1) (ii) of the Motor Vehicles Act by ½ pie per mile so as to cover the tax under the Madras Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers and Goods) Act, 1952."

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Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, the Hon. Finance Minister said just now that he was considering the question. But now in the answer given by the Hon. Minister for Transport, nothing is mentioned when a particular question relating to the same thing is put. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether in the light of the High Court judgment and the difficulties to which the travelling public are put, the Government will be pleased to expedite consideration and see that necessary action is taken immediately? "

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Sir, in view of the decision of the High Court, the Government have raised the maximum fares already prescribed by them under section 43 (1) (ii) of the Motor Vehicles Act by half-a-pie per mile so as to cover the Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers and Goods) Act, 1952. According to the revised rates, the maximum fare prescribed by Government in March 1954 and the maximum fare per mile in the plains in the mufassal, except urban areas where there are town services, have been increased to 7½ pies; and rates on ghat roads have also been increased."

Sri S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" May I know whether in practice the operators do collect ½ pie per mile from the passengers and if so in what routes? "

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Notice, Sir."

Pitchaya Pillai Bharathanatya Vidyalaya, Tanjore.

* 941 *Q.*—Sri K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total amount of public money spent during 1952–53 for the Pitchaya Pillai Bharathanatya Vidyalaya, Tanjore; and

(*b*) the total strength during the years 1952–53 and 1953–54 in the above school?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) Nil.

		Boys.	Girls.	
"(*b*) 1952–53	..	1	13	(as on 31st March 1953)
1953–54	..	1	13	(as on 1st August 1953)"

Sri K. ARANGANATHAN :—" What is the necessity for running the Bharathanatya Vidyalaya and how is it going to enhance the status and culture of the State? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I have already stated that no public money is spent. It is a private institution and we cannot prevent private institutions being run."